

## GERMANS CAPTURE SIX ENEMY FORTS

CHINESE ARE  
DEFEATED BY  
REBEL BANDS

Official Admission of Loss by  
Government Troops Is  
Made by China.

## NO ASSISTANCE ASKED

Governor of Yun-Nan Re-  
quests U. S. and Other  
Countries' Neutrality.

Peking, Jan. 26.—(Correspondence  
of The Associated Press.)—Official  
acknowledgment of the defeat of gov-  
ernment troops by the Yun-Nan rebels  
on the Sze-Chuen border was with-  
held until today when the state de-  
partment issued a mandate denounc-  
ing Tsai Ao, in which admission is  
made that the revolutionists sur-  
prised the regular army and defeated  
a small garrison.

Information received in Peking  
from non-Chinese sources shows that  
the Yun-Nan rebels who descended on  
the city of Suifu and captured it num-  
bered about 10,000. The garrison of  
Chinese at Suifu numbered about 4,000,  
but these troops left for the north  
several days before the arrival of the  
Yun-Nanese and consequently there  
was no resistance to the entrance of  
the latter. The fleeing government  
forces are reported to have started  
north for Tze-Chow.

## Rebel Forces Strong.

Estimates as to the total strength of  
the revolutionary army vary from 20-  
000 to 10,000, but neutral military ex-  
perts who have a knowledge of the  
supplies the Yun-Nan forces had be-  
fore the trouble, are of the opinion  
that the revolutionists can probably  
put about 40,000 men into the field  
with fair infantry equipment. The  
government has about three times this  
many troops either in Hankow or on  
their way to Yang-Tse ports. Trans-  
portation on the river is difficult and  
probably not more than 10,000 have  
reached Chung-King, which is about  
100 miles west of Suifu which now is  
in the hands of the revolutionists.

## Asks Strict Neutrality.

Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, American min-  
ister to China, and the heads of other  
legations in Peking received a formal  
circular dispatch today from Tang-  
Chi-Yao, the military governor of  
Yun-Nan, and Jen Kao-Tseng, civil  
governor of the same province, urging  
foreign powers to remain neutral in  
the present Chinese revolution.

PAY VACATIONS TO  
AID PREPAREDNESS

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 25.—In order  
to foster a patriotic spirit and to as-  
sist the national administration in its  
preparedness plan, the 6,000 employes  
of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company  
who enter military training camps  
shall hereafter receive full pay while  
away, besides a two weeks' vacation  
with pay, according to a resolution  
adopted by the board of directors and  
just announced here.

## Steel Strikers Holding Up Work.

Seward, Alaska, Feb. 25.—All work  
on the government railroad out of  
Anchorage has stopped as a result of  
the strike which began Feb. 7 when  
60 steel layers quit to enforce their  
demand for higher wages.

PORTUGAL SEIZES  
TEUTONIC BOATS

Thirty-six German and Austrian ships  
held—To Take Eighty More for  
Own Use.

Lisbon, (via Paris, Feb. 25.)—The  
Official Gazette publishes two decrees  
regarding the 36 German and Austrian  
merchant vessels seized yesterday in  
the Tagus river and placed under the  
Portuguese flag. The first indicates  
the work of refitting to be performed  
in order to adapt these vessels for the  
transport and other purposes for  
which they have been requisitioned as  
it is distinctly given to be given to be  
understood that they have not been  
confiscated. The second decree ap-  
points a committee to supervise the  
execution of the work indicated.

Portuguese newspapers say that in  
other parts of the republic there are  
80 German and Austrian vessels,  
which, it is understood, will also be  
requisitioned by the government. The  
total tonnage of the Teutonic ships ex-  
ceeds 150,000 tons.

THE WAR  
TODAY

The great battle around the fort-  
ress of Verdun, which has been in  
progress for nearly a week between  
the Germans and French continues  
with increasing violence. Emperor  
William himself, not far  
behind the battle line, is directing  
the movements of his forces. En-  
gagements on all other fronts are  
dwarfed in comparison with the  
battle of Verdun, and the outcome  
of the struggle is watched with the  
keenest interest everywhere. The  
Germans appear to be forcing the  
fighting, regardless of the cost of  
life. One French official report  
describes the battlefield between  
the Meuse and Ornes as piled with  
German dead. With their on-  
slaught of artillery and infantry,  
the Germans have not been able  
to break the French line, but the  
French on their right and left  
wings have been compelled to  
withdraw their lines, respectively  
to the south of Ornes and behind  
the town of Samogneux, six miles  
north of Verdun. The correspond-  
ent of the London Times says the  
artillery fire has become so ter-  
rific that the trench, at moments,  
becomes of no value as a defense,  
and consequently there has been a  
necessary partial return to a war  
of movement. He further says that  
should the unexpected happen and  
the entire first line fall into the  
hands of the Germans, they still  
would be confronted by five other  
lines, increasing in strength as  
they approach the fortress.

Champanneville is still within  
the French lines, the official state-  
ment indicates, the new front be-  
ing somewhat to the east. This vil-  
lage, which may be the next point  
of German attack, is something  
more than a mile southwest of  
Samogneux, on the east bank of  
the Passerelle canal, which leads  
to Verdun. Beaumont, behind  
which the French front now ex-  
tends, is almost due north of Ver-  
dun and about seven miles distant.

According to Paris the Germans  
have halted in their offensive for  
the moment at least.

The Turkish official statement  
tells of another attempt by the  
British to advance below Kut-El-  
Amara on the Tigris. The attack-  
ers were repulsed with heavy  
losses.

President Wilson, in a letter  
last night to Senator Stone, chair-  
man of the senate foreign rela-  
tions committee, announces in re-  
gard to movement on congress in  
favor of warning Americans not to  
take passage on armed belligerent  
merchants, that he will not con-  
sent to any abridgement of the  
rights of American citizens in any  
respect. The president expresses  
confidence that the explanation  
from the central powers of the  
situation that has arisen over their  
armed merchantmen memoranda  
will put a different aspect on mat-  
ters. In announcing his stand the  
president says: "The honor and  
self respect of the nation is in-  
volved. We covet peace and shall  
preserve it at any cost, but the loss  
of honor."

COOKS FIRED FOR  
KNOWING CRONES

Manager of University Club Plays  
"Safety First" and Discharges  
Poisoner's Friends.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Admission that  
they knew Jean Crones, the alleged  
poisoner of the soup at the banquet to  
Archbishop Mundelein a few weeks  
ago, today cost two cooks at the Uni-  
versity club here their places.

Although the men denied that they  
knew Crones or that they sympathized  
with his alleged anarchistic ideas,  
the manager of the club said he dis-  
charged them, "to be on the safe  
side."

New York, Feb. 25.—The police an-  
nounced today that the man who  
committed suicide yesterday in Newark,  
N. J., was not Jean Crones, the chef  
who attempted to poison Archbishop  
Mundelein and the 300 guests at a  
banquet in Chicago, as was at first  
believed.

## THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for  
Rock Island, Davenport, Moline  
and Vicinity.

Generally fair tonight and Satur-  
day, slightly warmer tonight with the  
lowest temperature about 25 degrees.  
Temperature at 7 a. m. 19. Highest  
yesterday 42, lowest last night 19.  
Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 8 miles  
per hour.  
Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 81, at 7  
a. m. 82, at 1 p. m. today 61.  
Stage of water 11.2, no change in  
last 24 hours.  
J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

KAISER WILL  
PUT OFF NEW  
SEAWARFARE

Threatening Performance of  
Germany to Be Post-  
poned, Is Claim.

## GREAT HELP TO WILSON

By Giving Additional Time  
President May Be Able  
to Clear Issue.

Washington, Feb. 25.—"I think the  
chances are Germany will postpone  
this threatening performance until  
April 1, or at least until the middle of  
March," said Speaker Clark today, af-  
ter a conference with President Wil-  
son. "There is a rumor to that effect  
and a postponement would give us  
more time."

Speaker Clark told the president  
that if a resolution of warning, such  
as the president opposes, were forced  
to a vote in the house now it would  
pass by a majority of two to one.

Congress met today with President  
Wilson's position on the question of  
armed merchantmen clearly defined.

Members of congress had read the  
president's letter to Senator Stone, in  
which he declared unequivocally that  
he would not consent to an abridge-  
ment of the rights of American citi-  
zens in any respect.

The president's communication was  
in response to a letter from the Mis-  
souri senator outlining the situation  
at the capitol, where for two days  
there had been a persistent demand  
for action by congress warning Ameri-  
cans to keep off armed merchant-  
men.

The president said that he had striven  
for peace and had succeeded and  
that he had no doubt that he would  
continue to succeed. He expressed  
confidence that the explanations by  
the central powers of the situation  
which has arisen over their armed  
merchantmen memoranda would soon  
be received and that the explanations  
would put a different aspect on mat-  
ters.

The fight in congress over warning  
Americans off armed ships marked  
today, with the parliamentary  
situation and other developments fa-  
voring President Wilson's position.

President Wilson firmly reiterated  
to house leaders the unyielding posi-  
tion he outlined last night in his let-  
ter to Senator Stone.

Former Secretary Bryan's influence  
came openly into the fight today when  
Representative Bailey of Pennsylvania  
gave out a telegram from Mr. Bryan  
opposing the president's position and  
supporting the agitation in congress.

## Lodge Supports President.

Senator Lodge, ranking republican  
of the foreign relations committee, de-  
clared support of the president's posi-  
tion. Senator Gore, democrat, intro-  
duced his resolution warning Ameri-  
cans, and Senator Jones, republican,  
introduced a resolution to require a  
break in diplomatic relations to be re-  
ferred to congress. There was no  
discussion.

## Believe Resolution Would Pass.

President Wilson reiterated his op-  
position to any action in congress  
warning Americans off armed ships in  
a conference early today with Speak-  
er Clark, majority leader Kitchen and  
Chairman Flood of the house foreign  
affairs committee, and they in turn  
told the president that if such a resolu-  
tion were brought to a vote in the  
house at this time it would be passed  
by a majority of two to one.

The president was unshaken in his  
position that congress should take no  
action embarrassing his contention  
that the rights of Americans on the  
seas must be upheld at any cost and  
repeated what he had written last  
night to Senator Stone.

The house leaders went away tell-  
ing the president nothing would be  
done today but they ventured no pre-  
dictions. They admitted the situation  
was serious and could not tell how  
it would end.

(Continued on Page Ten.)

FERRY BOAT MEN TO  
FIGHT NEW MEASURE

Washington, Feb. 25.—Representa-  
tives of Ferry boat companies in var-  
ious parts of the country appeared  
today before a sub-committee of the  
house committee on merchant marine  
in opposition to proposed legislation  
restricting the number of passengers  
the boats may carry. A similar bill is  
pending in the senate.

Voluntarily reports and statistics  
tending to show existing satisfactory  
conditions of ferry operation and ab-  
sence of accidents were presented to  
the sub-committee.

NO LOSS OF LIFE  
AS BOATS CRASH;  
DAMAGE IS SMALL

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 25.—All of the pas-  
sengers aboard the Merchants' and  
Miners' liner Cretan, which was dam-  
aged in collision with a schooner early  
today, 14 miles from Cape Hatteras,  
were safely transferred to the steamer  
Dorothy several hours later, according  
to a radio message received at the lo-  
cal office of the Merchants and Miners.  
The Cretan, with her captain and  
crew aboard and conveyed by the Dor-  
othy, is slowly making her way to  
Norfolk. Her bow is stove in and she  
is otherwise damaged. The condition  
of the schooner was not known.

Information reaching here later this  
morning indicated that the damage to  
the Cretan was slight and that there  
was no loss of life either aboard that  
ship or on the schooner with which  
she was in collision.

The steamer Dorothy, which took  
up the Cretan's passengers, is expected  
to reach Norfolk about 8 o'clock to-  
night.

The Cretan sailed from Philadelphia  
late Wednesday night. There were 28  
passengers on board and a crew of be-  
tween 40 and 50 men. She carried a  
general cargo.

Baltimore, Feb. 25.—The Merchants'  
and Miners' liner Cretan, from Phila-  
delphia for Savannah, says advices to  
the company's offices here, was in col-  
lision with the steamer Dorothy, 14  
miles north of Cape Hatteras during  
a thick fog early this morning. No  
one was hurt on either vessel. The  
Cretan's passengers were transferred  
to the Dorothy and both vessels pro-  
ceeded to Norfolk.

Sheriff After Negro, Shot by Marshal.  
Dubuque, Iowa, Feb. 25.—Sheriff  
Bordell of Jo Daviess county, Ill.,  
while pursuing a fugitive negro early  
today, was accidentally shot and prob-  
ably fatally wounded by City Marshal  
Richard Blair of Galena. Sheriff Bor-  
dell was brought to a hospital in Du-  
buque.

## Professor Goes to Talk of War.

London, Feb. 25.—Professor Gilbert  
Murray of Oxford University, noted  
authority on Greek literature, is going  
to Sweden to lay the British viewpoint  
regarding the war before the students  
of various cities at the invitation of  
the Swedish Union of Student socie-  
ties. His mission probably will be ex-  
tended to Norway and Denmark.

## DAY IN CONGRESS

## SENATE.

Senator Gore introduced resolu-  
tion to warn Americans to keep  
off armed ships of belligerents.

Senator Jones, republican, of  
Washington, introduced resolu-  
tion to express the sense of the  
senate that the president should  
not send an ultimatum to a for-  
eign power or sever diplomatic  
relations over issues of national  
honor without consulting con-  
gress.

Considered nomination of Henry  
P. Fletcher as ambassador to Mex-  
ico.

Inquiry into Brandeis supreme  
court nomination continued.

Sisal monopoly investigation re-  
sumed.

## HOUSE.

Army and navy committees con-  
tinued work on defense bills.

General debate on postoffice bill  
resumed.

Foreign affairs committee con-  
tinued hearing on resolution for  
conference of neutral nations.

To Give Jury  
Evidence on  
Graft Probe

Chicago, Feb. 25.—The city civil  
service commission inquiry into  
charges made by Mrs. Page Waller  
Eaton, resigned superintendent of the  
bureau of social survey, that Mrs.  
Louise Osborne Rowe, commissioner  
of public welfare, had forced her to  
split her salary to aid in the support of  
Mrs. William Hale Thompson's sister,  
Mrs. Mivelaz, was resumed this morn-  
ing. The investigation by the council  
committee on schools, fire, police and  
civil service was completed yesterday  
and the committee recommended that  
the evidence be sent to the state's at-  
torney to be laid before the grand  
jury.

State's Attorney Hoynes said he  
would not take the matter up until af-  
ter the primary election next Tues-  
day. He will then investigate it thor-  
oughly he said, and if evidence war-  
rants, will present it to the grand jury  
for action.

The minority members of the com-  
mittee have also announced that they  
will present a minority report to the  
council, and it is said the principal  
recommendation of the report will be  
that the council ask Mayor Thompson  
to discharge Mrs. Rowe.

Mrs. Eaton, in telling her story to  
the committee, offered no new devel-  
opments in the alleged salary split-  
ting charges. She reiterated that Mrs.  
Rowe told her that "Maizie (Mrs.  
Thompson) says we've got to come  
across," and that for some months she  
paid Mrs. Rowe one-third of her salary,  
ostensibly for the benefit of Mrs.  
Mivelaz, sister-in-law of the mayor.

Seymour Steadman, counsel for Mrs.  
Eaton, also took the stand and he was  
followed by W. E. Rodriguez, social-  
ist alderman who brought the charges  
of graft on the floor of the council,  
and by Fulton Gardner, an electrician,  
both of whom said they had seen Mrs.  
Eaton pay money to Mrs. Rowe.

Rodriguez and Gardner also appear-  
ed before the civil service commis-  
sion, together with a number of minor  
employees in the department of public  
welfare.

Mrs. Eaton issued a statement to-  
day declaring any attempt to blacken  
her character would be met by resort  
to the courts for redress.

A summons has been issued by the  
civil service commission for Mrs. D.  
M. Sabin, widow of former United  
States Senator Sabin of Minnesota, to  
appear as a witness at the Eaton-  
Rowe hearing.

Mrs. Eaton a number of years ago  
had business dealings with Senator  
Sabin and after his death figured in a  
contest over insurance policies in  
which she was made the beneficiary.

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO;  
HAD ENTERED HOUSE

Carrollville, Ga., Feb. 25.—An un-  
known negro was lynched here early  
today after being taken from jail where  
he had been placed last night on  
charges of having tried to break into  
the home of Mrs. A. T. Heath.

A mob of 40 or 50 men and boys took  
the negro from jail, carried him to  
the front of the city hall and hanged  
him to a telegraph pole.

Japs Send Fleet to Indian Ocean.

Tokio, Feb. 25, (10:45 a. m.)—The  
Japanese navy department announces  
that four warships are being sent to  
the Indian ocean to replace other Ja-  
panese units there. The report that a  
Japanese fleet has been sent to the  
Mediterranean is state to be unfoun-  
ded.

LAST CHARGE  
ON FRENCH IS  
TEUTON CRY

Commander Urges Men on  
With Slogan in Great  
Final Offensive.

## 10,000 ARE PRISONERS

Berlin Tells of Vast Forces  
of Foe Added to Those  
Already Held.

Berlin, Feb. 25, (via London,  
3:22 p. m.)—The German war of-  
fice announced today the capture  
of all French positions in the re-  
gion north of Verdun as far as the  
Ridge of Loudeumont, just south  
of Beaumont.

The number of prisoners has  
been increased by more than 7,000  
to over 10,000.

Capture of the fortified villages  
and farms of Champanneville, Co-  
telle, Marmont, Beaumont, Ornes  
and Chambrettes was announced.

Paris, Feb. 25.—German troops tak-  
ing part in the operations before Ver-  
dun were given to understand that  
this was to be the last and the great  
offensive against France, according to  
statements made by prisoners reported  
in the Paris newspapers this morning.  
The following phrase is quoted from  
an order published by General von  
Deimling on the eve of the Verdun  
battle:

"In the course of the last offensive  
against France I hope that the 15th  
army corps will distinguish itself as  
it has done in the past."

General Berthold Karl Adolf von  
Deimling is commander of the 15th  
German army corps, with headquarters  
at Strassburg.

## Kaiser Directs Movement.

The Petit Parisien's correspondent  
at the front says that the great Ger-  
man offensive against Verdun is under  
the personal direction of Emperor  
William, who arrived at general head-  
quarters on Saturday last and who, in  
order that nothing go wrong, immedi-  
ately ordered that a sort of dress re-  
hearsal of the coming attack be held.  
At a given signal, the correspondent  
says, every infantryman and gunner  
took the post assigned to him in ad-  
vance and the motions of a general at-  
tack were gone through behind the  
lines. The emperor seemingly was  
satisfied and gave the order to begin  
the offensive on Sunday night.

The French losses are declared to  
be insignificant in comparison with  
those of the Germans. The German  
artillery preparation, which reached  
its height on Tuesday, was of unpar-  
alleled violence. Every inch of ground  
was searched out, every point where  
it was thought a gun might exist was  
littered with shells but the French in-  
fantry was so well sheltered under  
ground and the French guns were so  
well hidden that, when the German  
batteries grew silent and the German  
infantry advanced to the attack,  
Frenchmen sprang up from the holes  
in the ground and opened a deadly fire  
with machine guns, while shells from  
the 75-millimetre guns flew overhead  
and mowed down wave after wave of  
the Germans as they plodded doggedly  
over the snow covered ground, urged  
on from behind, the correspondent  
adds, by their officers, revolvers in  
hand.

## French Claim Fighting Lighter.

The fighting north of Verdun is di-  
minishing in violence, the war office  
announced today. No attack by the  
Germans was attempted last night.

The official statement admits that  
the French have fallen back to the  
rear of Beaumont. The text of the  
statement follows:

"To the east of Vaquois we have  
launched fresh attacks on the enemy's  
works in the region of the forest of  
Cheppy. Intermittent artillery activi-  
ty has been carried on between Ma-  
lancourt and the left bank of the  
Meuse. In the district north of Ver-  
dun."

(Continued on Page Ten.)

WASHINGTON POLICE  
HUNT TRAIN BANDITS

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 25.—Deputy  
sheriffs, the police of Seattle and Ta-  
coma and Northern Pacific special  
agents today were conducting a vigi-  
lous search for two men who held up  
the Northern Pacific eastbound Coast  
Limited train No. 2, 25 miles east of  
Seattle last night and escaped after  
rifling four pouches of registered mail  
enroute to New York. The robbers  
attempted to dynamite the safe in the  
express car but their efforts failed,  
and the registered mail was their only  
loot.